

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 2-5 and 8-14 are pending in the application. In the instant amendment, claims 2-5, 8-9, and 11 have been amended, and claim 7 has been canceled. New claims 12, 13 and 14 have been added.

The instant amendment made herein to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the feature of claim 7 to further clarify the present invention. Consequently, claim 7 has been canceled. New claim 12 is based on claim 4 and new claim 13 is based on the disclosure at page 20, the last line of the specification. Previous claim 4 has been rewritten as independent new claim 14, while incorporating all features of previous claim 1.

Accordingly, proper consideration of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested at present, as is entry of the present amendment.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in allowing Applicants Representatives to conduct a Personal Interview at the USPTO on June 14, 2007. The Examiner's comments as set forth in the Interview Summary Form are correct with respect to the discussion that took place during the interview.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 5, and 11 have been objected to because of informalities.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 2 and 5 have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to overcome this objection.

With regard to claim 11, the Examiner states that the last phrase of "and the gas generating agent molded article" is unclear in meaning.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is not such limitation in claim 11, and assumes that the Examiner is referring to the limitation in claim 9.

In view of this, claim 9 has been amended to overcome this objection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 3, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi US '051 (USP 6,485,051) in view of Taylor US '922 (US 2003/0145922A1) in further view of Dahl US '055 (USP 6,139,055). Further, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi US '051 in view of Taylor US '922 and Dahl US '055 in further view of Matsuda US '767 (USP 5,780,767). Further, claims 8, 9, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi US '051 in view of Taylor in further view of Matsuda US '767.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

Distinctions over the Cited References

First, none of the cited references disclose or suggest one of the features of the present invention: "the gas generating agent accommodated in the combustion chamber includes guanidine nitrate and basic copper nitrate," as recited in claim 2.

Further, none of the cited references disclose or suggest one of the features of the present invention: "molded articles of a gas generating agent," as recited in claim 2.

In this regard, at page 3, the last line to page 4, line 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Taylor US '922 discloses molded articles of a gas generating agent at paragraph 0052.

However, at paragraph 0050, Taylor US '922 merely discloses, as follows:

[0052] A preferred igniter composition in accordance with the invention was prepared containing 9 weight percent boron, 24.37 weight percent guanidine nitrate and 66.63 weight percent potassium nitrate, where such percentages are in terms of the overall composition.

Rather, at paragraphs 0052, Taylor US '922 discloses, as follows:

[0050] As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art and guided by the teachings herein provided, igniter compositions in accordance with the invention can be processed or otherwise produced by various methods. One useful processing technique for igniter compositions in accordance with the invention to form granular materials is accomplished by first slurry mixing the various ingredients together in a 50/50 mixture of water and ethanol (25% by weight) to dissolve some of the guanidine nitrate. The slurry mixture is then dried in an oven to form a product cake. This product cake can then be ground, with the ground product classified to the specified size (e.g., on the order of about 14 to about 30 mesh). Alternatively, the slurry may be granulated, dried and then classified. Another processing or production method that may be employed is to form a slurry at a relatively low solvent level and then sphereonize the material, followed by drying the material such as in an oven or fluid bed drier and classification.
(Emphasis added)

In these disclosures, Taylor US '922 fails to disclose or suggest molded articles of a gas generating agent, while suggesting grinding products. Thus, Taylor US '922 teaches away molded articles rather than suggest it.

As explained above, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least one feature of the present invention. Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established even if the cited references are combined. Likewise, it follows that a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by any of the teachings of the cited references to arrive at the present invention.

Accordingly, the present invention (independent claim 2 and dependent claims) is not obvious over the cited references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, previous claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form (i.e., new claim 14), while incorporating all features of previous claim 1.

Accordingly, new claim 14 has been put in condition of allowance.

CONCLUSION


Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #34,401
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No.: 28,977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant